

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application and for indicating that claims 2-4 and 6 contain allowable subject matter. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

As a preliminary matter, applicants note that the Examiner failed to indicate his consideration of reference "A" on an IDS that was mailed on November 20, 2001. The Examiner has already indicated his consideration of references "H" through "M." Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate his consideration of reference "A" by providing an appropriately initialed copy of the IDS in the next Office action.

Claims 1, 7-19 and 21 have been canceled. Claims 2-6 and 20 have been amended.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Toyoda et al. (U.S. patent number 6,700,605). Claim 1 has been canceled.

Claims 5 and 20 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Toyoda. Amended claim 5 now depends from claim 2, which contains allowable subject matter as discussed below. Amended claim 20 depends from any of claims 2-6, all of which contain allowable subject matter as discussed below.

Claims 2-4 and 6 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 2, 3 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form and have been amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Claim 4 depends from claim 3.

Appl. No.: 09/841,262
Amdt. Dated: June 20, 2006
Reply to Office action of: April 5, 2006

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33551.

Respectfully submitted,

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